

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 5 and 10 to 14 as follows. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A purchase group management server connectable with at least one terminal through a network, comprising:

receiving means for receiving, from said terminal operated by a purchaser, a request for a group purchase indicating a product to be purchased;

notifying means for notifying said terminal of an ID uniquely corresponding to a group of said group purchase;

storage means for storing a plurality of purchase states ~~state for satisfying a condition of the group purchase~~, wherein said each of the plurality of purchase state states corresponds to said the ID of the group;

update means for updating, when a purchase of the product indicated in said group purchase is performed using the ID by another purchaser of the group, a corresponding said purchase state in the plurality of purchase states stored in said storage means ~~when a purchase of the product indicated in said group bulk purchase is performed using said ID by another purchaser~~; and

control means for giving a special favor to the purchasers of the group on the basis of each of the plurality of the purchase state states stored in said storage means and a condition of the group purchase,

wherein after a passage of a time period included in the condition, said control means gives the special favor to the purchasers of the group if the corresponding

purchase state stored in said storage means satisfies the condition of the group purchase, and does not give the special favor to the purchaser purchasers of the group if the corresponding purchase state does not satisfy the condition of the group purchase.

2. (Previously Presented) A purchase group management server according to claim 1, wherein the special favor is a discount of the purchase price of the product indicated in said group purchase.

3. (Previously Presented) A purchase group management server according to claim 1, wherein said special favor is given to each member of said group purchase who purchased said product using the ID.

4. (Previously Presented) A purchase group management server according to claim 1, wherein said control means gives said special favor to the purchasers after the group purchase received is completed.

5. (Currently Amended) A purchase group management server according to claim 1, wherein said notifying means notifies said terminal of a purchase period of said product with said the ID.

6. (Previously Presented) A purchase group management server according to claim 1, wherein said request includes a payment method for said group purchase, and

said control means performs payment or reception of money by a method designated by said payment method upon at least one of cases of selling said product and of giving said special favor.

7. (Previously Presented) A purchase group management server according to claim 1, wherein said request includes a payment method for the purchasers, and

said control means performs payment or reception of money between it and each purchaser by a method designated by said payment method upon at least one of cases of selling said product and of giving said special favor.

8. to 9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) A terminal connected through a network with a purchase group management server, wherein the network with a purchase group management server comprises:

receiving means for receiving a request for a group purchase from said terminal operated by a purchaser;

notifying means for notifying said terminal of an ID uniquely corresponding to a group of said group purchase;

storage means for storing a plurality of purchase states ~~state for satisfying a condition of the group purchase~~, wherein said each of the plurality of purchase state states corresponds to said the ID of the group;

update means for updating ~~said purchase state stored in said storage means~~ when a purchase of ~~[[a]]~~ the product indicated in said group purchase is performed using ~~said given~~ the ID by another purchaser of the group, a corresponding purchase state in the plurality of purchase states stored in said storage means; and

control means for giving a special favor to the purchasers of the group on the basis of each of the plurality of the purchase state states stored in said storage means and a condition of the group purchase,

wherein said terminal is used for, in a case where a group purchase is requested to said purchase group management server, notifying said purchase group management server of the request for the group purchase including purchase conditions including at least the name and the number of products to be purchased,

and wherein after a passage of a time period included in the condition, said control means gives the special favor to the purchasers group if the corresponding purchase state stored in said storage means satisfies the condition of the group purchase, and does not give the special favor to the purchaser purchasers of the group if the corresponding purchase state does not satisfy the condition of the group purchase.

11. (Currently Amended) A group purchase method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for the group purchase from a terminal having an ID<sub>1</sub> in a case where a request for said group purchase indicating a product to be purchased is made;

notifying the terminal having the ID uniquely corresponding to a group of  
said group purchase, in a case where the request for said group purchase is received;

storing a plurality of purchase states ~~state~~ for satisfying a condition of the  
group purchase, wherein said each of the plurality purchase state states corresponds to the  
ID of the group;

updating, when a purchase of the product indicated in said group purchase is  
performed using the ID by another purchaser of the group, a corresponding said purchase  
state in the plurality of purchase states stored in said step of storing a purchase state in case  
a purchase of the product indicated in said group purchase is performed using the ID by a  
purchaser; and

giving a special favor to the purchaser purchasers of the group on the basis  
of each of the plurality of the purchase state states stored in said step of storing a purchase  
state and a condition of the group purchase,

wherein after a passage of a time period included in the condition, the  
special favor is given to the purchaser purchasers of the group in said step of giving the  
~~special favor~~ if the corresponding purchase state stored in said step of storing a purchase  
state satisfies the condition of the group purchase, and the special favor is not given to the  
purchaser purchasers of the group if the corresponding purchase state does not satisfy the  
condition of the group purchase.

12. (Currently Amended) A program for executing a process for a special  
favor to each member of a group purchase, the process comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for the group purchase from a terminal having an ID, in a case where a request for said group purchase indicating a product to be purchased is made;

notifying the terminal having the ID uniquely corresponding to a group of said group purchase, in a case where the request for said group purchase is received;

storing a plurality of purchase states ~~state~~ for satisfying a condition of the group purchase, wherein ~~said~~ each of the plurality of purchase state states corresponds to the ID of the group;

updating, when a purchase of the product indicated in said group purchase is performed using the ID by another purchaser of the group, a corresponding said purchase state in the plurality of purchase states stored in said step of storing ~~a purchase state in case~~ a purchase of the product indicated in said group purchase is performed using the ~~ID~~ by a purchaser; and

giving a special favor to the ~~purchaser~~ purchasers of the group on the basis of each of the plurality of the purchase state states stored in said step of storing ~~a purchase state~~ and a condition of the group purchase,

wherein after a passage of a time period included in the condition, the special favor is given to the ~~purchaser~~ purchasers of the group in said step of giving the special favor if the corresponding purchase state stored in said step of storing ~~a purchase state~~ satisfies the condition of the group purchase, and the special favor is not given to the ~~purchaser~~ purchasers of the group if the corresponding purchase state does not satisfy the condition of the group purchase.

13. (Currently Amended) A recording medium storing a program for executing a process for giving a special favor in a group purchase, the process comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for the group purchase from a terminal having an ID<sub>1</sub> in a case where a request for said group purchase indicating a product to be purchased is made;

notifying the terminal having the ID uniquely corresponding to a group of said group purchase, in a case where the request for said group purchase is received;

storing a plurality of purchase state states ~~for satisfying a condition of the~~ group purchase, wherein said each of the plurality of purchase state states corresponds to the ID of the group;

updating, when a purchase of the product indicated in said group purchase is performed using the ID by another purchaser of the group, a corresponding said purchase state in the plurality of purchase states stored in said step of storing a purchase state in case a purchase of the product indicated in said group purchase is performed using the ID by a purchaser; and

giving a special favor to the purchaser purchasers of the group on the basis of the each of the plurality of purchase state states stored in said step of storing a purchase state and a condition of the group purchase,

wherein after a passage of a time period included in the condition, the special favor is given to the purchaser purchasers of the group in said step of giving the special favor if the corresponding purchase state stored in said step of storing a purchase state satisfies the condition of the group purchase, and the special favor is not given to the

purchaser purchasers of the group if the corresponding purchase state does not satisfy the condition of the group purchase.

14. (Currently Amended) A selling system comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request for a group purchase from a terminal having an ID, in a case where a request for said group purchase indicating a product to be purchased is made;

notifying means for notifying the terminal having the ID uniquely corresponding to a group of said group purchase, in a case where the request for said group purchase is received;

storage means for storing a plurality of purchase states ~~state for satisfying a condition of the group purchase~~, wherein said each of the plurality of purchase state states corresponds to the ID of the group;

update means for updating, when a purchase of the product indicated in said group purchase is performed using the ID by another purchaser of the group, a corresponding said purchase state in the plurality of purchase states stored in said storage means ~~when a purchase of the product indicated in said group purchase is performed using the ID by a purchaser~~; and

control means for giving a special favor to the purchaser purchasers of the group on the basis of each of the plurality of the purchase state states stored in said storage means and a condition of the group purchase.

wherein after a passage of a time period included in the condition, said control means gives the special favor to the purchaser purchasers of the group if the



corresponding purchase state stored in said storage means satisfies the condition of the group purchase, and does not give the special favor to the ~~purchaser~~ purchasers of the group if the corresponding purchase state does not satisfy the condition of the group purchase.

15. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 14, wherein said receiving means for receiving the request of said group purchase receives information capable of identifying a purchase period, the number of products to be purchased, and all purchasers when receiving the request of said group purchase.

16. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 14, further comprising a data base for storing group purchase information received through said receiving means for receiving the request.

17. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 14, wherein said system comprises means for calculating the special favor generates a purchase condition management table made up from information for identifying a purchaser, a purchase period, and a purchase date.

18. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 17, wherein said control means for receiving a request updates said purchase condition management table in case the order of a purchaser is completed.